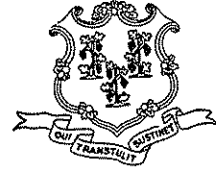


STATE OF CONNECTICUT
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March 4, 2009

To: Senator Andrea Stillman, Representative Steven Dargan and distinguished members of the Public Safety and Security Committee

From: H. Wayne Carver II, MD, Chief Medical Examiner

Re: House bill 6563: An Act Concerning the Investigation of Missing Persons Reports

First of all, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to submit a written response to the proposed House Bill # 6563 referenced above. We feel that this bill is laudatory in all aspects, but there are certain practical matters that I would like to bring to the attention of the committee.

First, the office already routinely does most of the actions that this bill mandates in terms of collecting material such as pictures, fingerprints and material suitable for DNA analysis.

Second, there are three sections (E, F and G) which require action from our agency that we can not do.

Section E specifically proposes that the Chief Medical Examiner make every reasonable effort to obtain prompt DNA analysis of biological material.

Section F and G places the responsibility of identifying the unidentified human remains thru mitochondrial or nuclear DNA testing and entering the information into state and federal databases that may aid in the identification of a missing person, ie: National Crime Information Center.

While we obtain suitable material in every case, only a police agency may submit such material to the Division of Scientific Services of the Department of Public Safety. These data bases only accept submission from police agencies. As such, OCME would be unable to comply with this policy should it become law. These should be performed by the police department who is coordinating the efforts to identify the missing person or the State Police.

I would be pleased to provide more information and answer any questions you may have concerning this issue.